2/79

DADE COUNTY HISTORIC SURVEY

SITE INVENTORY FORM

FDAHRM 802==

Site No. 1009==

Site Name (Address) 3439 Main Highway 905==

Other Names for Site St. Stephen's Church 930==

Other Nos. for Site 3750 McFarlane Road 906==

City & Zip Code Miami, Florida 33133 813==

Location C & I Peacock Ammend. B-70 /

subdivision name

/ See continuation sheet 868==

block no. lot no.

County Dade 808== Survey Date 7901 820==

Owner of Site: Name: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ;

Address: P.O. Box 33-318 902==

Miami, Florida 33133 902==

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager: Name: 904==

Type of Ownership:

- ■ Private 848==
- ☐ Corporate 848==
- ☐ Municipal 848==
- ☐ 848==

Remarks:

Threats to Site:

- ☐ Zoning ( ) 878==
- ☐ Development ( ) 878==
- ☐ Deterioration ( ) 878==
- ☐ Transportation ( ) 878==
- ☐ Other (See Remarks): 878==

Condition of Site:

- ☐ Excellent 863==
- ■ Good 863==
- ☐ Fair 863==
- ☐ Deteriorated 863==

Remarks:

Integrity of Site:

- ■ Altered 858==
- ☐ Unaltered 858==
- ■ Original Site 858==
- ☐ Restored ( ) Date: 858==
- ☐ Moved ( ) Date: 858==
- ☐ Destroyed ( ) Date: 858==

Reporter (or local contact):

Name: Rodriguez, Ivan A. (Dade County Historic Survey) ;

Address: Dade County Park and Recreation Department

50 S.W. 32 Road; Miami, Florida 33129 816==

Name of Project: Dade County Historic Survey 980==

Recorder:

Name & Title: Monroe, Elizabeth B. (HSS) ;

Address: FDAHRM 818==

Previous Survey(s): enter activity/title of survey/name/date/repository)

839==

UTM Coordinates

Zone	Easting	Northing	
17	576000	2845460	890==

Photographic Record Numbers #78N1010HPS (Frames 15, 16) 860==

78N112HPS (Frames 0A, 1A, 2A)

Address: 3439 Main Highway

Significance:
This masonry construction church represents a fine example of religious architecture in Dade County between 1910 and 1920. It is noteworthy for its roof, tower parapet details, Mission style features, cohesiveness within the neighborhood and open courtyards.

The first Episcopal service held in Coconut Grove was in 1893, but not until 1909 under the leadership of Flora McFarlane was there an organized Episcopal church. Miss McFarlane sent out invitations to a meeting which led to the formation of St. Stephens. Miss Flora McFarlane was the first female homesteader and also the first teacher in the Coconut Grove school. On February 19, 1891, she met with five women and founded the Housekeepers Club (now known as the Women's Club of Coconut Grove).

Early in 1912 the lot on which the church now stands, was given by J.R. Strong of New York in memory of his wife. On June 11, 1912 the cornerstone of St. Stephen's Episcopla church was laid. The Rev. C.J. Jackson, M.D. was named priest-in-charge 911==
(See continuation sheet)

Bibliography:

Published:

"Grove Has 'Friendly' Church," The Miami News, 1924.

Unpublished:

Miami, Florida. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Progress Report, 1965.

Parks, Arva. "The History of Coconut Grove Florida, 1821-1925," Miami, Florida Unpublished MA thesis, University of Miami, June, 1971.

920==

Original Use:
- ☐ Private Residence 838==
- ☐ Apartment Building 838==
- ☐ Hotel 838==
- ☐ Commercial 838==
- ■ Other: Church 838==

Present Use:
- ☐ Private Residence 850==
- ☐ Apartment Building 850==
- ☐ Hotel 850==
- ■ Commercial 850==
- Other: Church & School 850==

Culture/Phase American 840==

Areas of Significance:
- ■ Architecture 910==
- ☐ Commerce 910==
- ■ Exploration & Settlement 910==
- ■ Social/Humanitarian 910==
- ■ Other: RELIGIOUS 910==
- 910==

Period:
- ■ 20th Century 845==
- ☐ 19th Century 845==

N.R. Classification Category: Building 916==

Specific Dates: Beginning +1912c 844==

CONTINUATION SHEET

Location: (Cont'd) 868==

Lot 8 & SW 25' Lot 9 less NWly 15' thereof & Lot A less NEly 180.1' of SWly 265.1' of NWly 65' & less NEly 65' of NWly 65' and Beg. SW corner Lot 8 SEly 31.41' NEly 422.28' NW 31.41' SW 422.89' to POB PB6-152. 868==

Outbuilding (Features of Site): St. Stephens Church Fountain (Bird Bath) 876==

St. Stephens Church property has slight incline from front to rear of lot with total incline of about 5'. Probably at one time heavily vegetated, property has been thinned to some degree. Birdbath is of Masonry construction circular with upper bath on round central pedestal. Birdbath base contains the assemblance of multiple moulding, (top to bottom, cap, torous, cove, scotia, base). 876==

Significance: (Continued) 911==

of St. Stephen's by Bishop Gray. The church in that year had seven communicants.

The cloister area was added in front of the church in 1919. The 1926 hurricane caused great damage to St. Stephen's, as it did to many structures in Miami. The hurricane damage resulted in legal actions that caused many families to leave the parish. In 1947 the parish pledged $45,000 for the construction of 14 churchschool classrooms, a guild hall and parish office. In 1954 the facilities stand on McFarlane Avenue in Coconut Grove. The street named after the lady who founded their church. Part of the original church building still stands today and faces Main Highway. 911==

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Archives, History
and Records Management
DS-HSP-3G 6-76

Site No. _____

Site Name 3439 Main Hwy.

ARCHITECTURAL SITE DATA SUPPLEMENT

ARCHITECT _____ 872==

BUILDER _____ 874==

STYLE AND/OR MODE Masonry Vernacular 964==

PLAN TYPE Rectangular 966==

EXTERIOR FABRIC(S) Stucco, plain 854==

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM(S) Masonry 856==

FEATURE OF STRUCTURE (942):

FOUNDATION: _____ 942==

ROOF TYPE: Gable, #1, end to front. 942==

SECONDARY ROOF STRUCTURE(S): Three wings; gables 942==

CHIMNEY LOCATION: _____ 942==

WINDOW TYPE: _____ 942==

MATERIALS (882):

CHIMNEY: _____ 882==

ROOF SURFACING: Flat 882==

INTERIOR WALLS: _____ 882==

ORNAMENT INTERIOR: _____ 882==

ORNAMENT EXTERIOR: Wood 882==

QUANTITATIVE DATA (950-960):

NO. OF STOREYS 1 950==

NO. OF CHIMNEYS _____ 952==

OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ 954==

_____ 956==

_____

OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING (FREE TEXT) (865==):

ROOF STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: 865==

MAIN ENTRANCE: west; offset right side; wood and glass; double doors with ngle lights, plain surrounds; no elevation.

WINDOW PLACEMENT: 2 bays, regular

WINDOW SURROUNDS AND DECORATION: Windows with plain surrounds; frontal wing left side with flanking columns.

PORCHES, VERANDAS, GALLERIES AND BALCONIES:

EXTERIOR ORNAMENT AND COLOR: White; exposed rafters at eaves with clipped brackets at main gable end.

INTERIOR COMMENTS:

OTHER (SPECIFY): Building has two assymetrical wings rear side that encloses a ourtyard; dedicated to Benjamin W. Soper, priest and rector.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS (FREE TEXT) (857==): Wings at rear and possible frontal, left ide. 857==

OUTBUILDINGS (FEATURES OF SITE) (876==): Large site incorporating more than urvey building. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 876==

SURROUNDINGS (CLASSIFICATION) commercial 864==

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS (FREE TEXT) (859==): 859==

Soggy Salute

OCT 1 6 1978

Grove Church Celebrates Its 85-Year Reign

Flora McFarlane
... recruited Gray

By JOAN FLEISCHMAN
Herald Staff Writer

The weather was awful. The clown didn't show. The rope-skipping was canceled!

But not to worry. St. Stephen's, the Coconut Grove Episcopal church that marked its 85th year Sunday, still did a lot to celebrating Sunday. HISTORY

Three hundred stalwart citizens wouldn't have their spirits dampened. Youngsters and adults alike removed shoes and went barefoot — dashing sometimes between outdoor exhibits.

Most displays had to come in out of the rain, including a salt-box house (the frame of a house fashioned after the style built by pioneer Miamians) where the oldtime church members and Grovites gathered to reminisce about pioneer days.

THE FESTIVAL drew Grove history buffs, and others seeking just plain fun.

It did precisely that. The most crowded exhibit — even before the rain — was the tent which housed the old-fashioned ice-cream social.

There 6-year-old Edward Blakiston, soaking wet and face covered with chocolate frosting, feasted on colossal slices of cake for a nickel, 25-cent ice-cream cones, and 10-cent lemonades.

The room where historian Arva Park conducted a talk and slide show on the early Grove and its churches drew a large crowd. So did the puppet show of *Jacob's Ladder*, although that crowd was barely four feet tall.

The church structure is not even 30 years old, but the congregation is celebrating its 85th anniversary.

That's how far back one must go to find the first recorded Episcopal service in Coconut Grove, said Coral Gables attorney Robert Sherwood, who chaired the festival.

THAT SERVICE was conducted by Rt. Rev. William Crane Gray, a missionary.

The woman who helped recruit Gray to the Grove was Flora McFarlane, the Grove's first school teacher.

St. Stephen's and its sprawling day school now

Turn to Page 2B Col. 3

Grove Church Celebrates 85th Anniversary in Rain

FROM PAGE 1B

stand on McFarlane Street.

The first St. Stephen's building was not erected until 1912. Before then services were held in an outdoor tent.

The 1912 building was severely damaged by the 1926 hurricane which ravaged South Florida, just as plans to build a new church were underway, so the parish decided to make further additions when the old building was repaired.

A parish house was built in 1937. Later that year, the church got a telephone.

THE HISTORIC 1893 service also commemorates the day when the Grove's black and white population lived closer together, Sherwood said.

Today, most of the Grove's black Episcopalians attend Chirst Church. St. Stephen's is predominantly white.

But pioneer members of Christ Church were on hand Sunday at St. Stephen's.

Members of the Coconut Grove Chamber Ensemble, sponsored by the parish, made their debut Sunday and perhaps, in a way, were blessed by the rain. Many who otherwise might have been outside under the sunshine, listening to music from the calliope (steam organ), instead sought refuge inside the church where the ensemble played music of the baroque period.

"Celebrating is worth doing even in the rain," said Sherwood, who chaired the festival.

The response to the festival, which St. Stephen's rector Father Allen Hingston said was a first for the church, was so good that the parish plans to try it again next year.

LAKE PLACID SCHOOL

Migratory Plan Brings Students South Annually

Lake Placid School Is Spending 16th and Last Winter Term in Coconut Grove

Among the winter features at Coconut Grove is the Lake Placid School, which brings a number of boys, mostly of the teen ages, into the community.

Although the school has not linked itself closely with the community in any specific way its presence is always felt and its spacious grounds on the water front opposite the Houseboaters' Club are always pointed out to visitors.

The annual play given by the upper classes is one of the events of each season which is well attended by local people. Athletic teams occasionally compete with teams in Miami and vicinity. Students attend St. Stephen's Episcopal Church each Sunday while here. Individual faculty members not infrequently participate in community activities. Principal H. L. Malcolm has been sought as a referee for basketball games at the Miami Y. M. C. A. and Harry W. Nordstrum, instructor in mathematics and music, is this year coaching a minstrel show for the Lindley DeGarmo Post of the American Legion.

Migratory Plan

The school was founded in 1906 by John Morgan Hopkins, formerly a teacher in the Adirondack-Florida School, which used the migratory plan with two locations. He secured the old Peacock Inn property at Coconut Grove and the Whiteface Inn on Lake Placid, N. Y.

In 1921 he sold out all his property north and south. The school then passed into the hands of H. L. Malcolm, who was the senior master from 1914 to 1921. Mr. Malcolm graduated from Yale in 1907 and taught for five years in the Choate School at Wallingford, Conn. He expects to continue the school at the same site in the north but this is to be the last year in Coconut Grove, for property has been secured at Pompano beach and already groups of students are making trips there to prepare for the move next winter.

Mrs. Malcolm assists greatly in the social activities of the students and in overseeing each boy's personal welfare. The faculty now consists of eight masters.

Miami Metropolis
March 3, 1923

Source: Erling Ayars Scrapbook
Collection of Arva Moore Parks

THE MIAMI

St. Stephens Will Honor Father Soper

On Wednesday members of St. Stephen's Episcopal church, "The Friendly Little Church Around the Corner," will gather to pay honor to the Rev. B. W. Soper, rector for over 25 years, and Mrs. Soper. History of this area and of much of its social life centers around this little church, and in the gathering, no doubt, ghosts of long-dead pioneers will hover in friendly benediction about the beloved pastor.

St. Stephen's is one of the oldest churches in the Miami district, and its parish records read like a list of who settled the city. The late William J. Matheson was one of the first sponsors of the church. It was his generosity which made the building of it a lighter burden than it would have been; it was Mrs. Matheson who gave the first garden party to raise funds for the rectory.

Admiral and Mrs. Clifford Busch were the leading workers in raising money for the organ. Judge H. F. and Judge Edith Atkinson gave the lovely Madonna window above the altar. Admiral Albert Ross was one of the first worshipers.

Throughout the years St. Stephen's has been the scene of colorful marriages, joyous baptisms and peaceful requiems. Through its portals have passed many of the great and near great of the country as well as just the Miami area. Ruth Bryan Owen and the late Maj. Reginald Owen were communicants there, and the Owens' children, Helen and Bryan, went to its Sunday school. Arthur Brisbane worshiped in St. Stephen's, and his children learned their Bible lessons from the pastor's wife.

Names familiar to all early residents of Miami are listed on the church roster, and many of those names have been added to in the baptismal records. The P. T. Hutchinsons were early parishioners, as were the Charles Brickells, the F. W. Chesebroughs, the Ralph Monroes, William Blodgett, Kirk Monroe, David Todd, Dr. Packard Laird and H. de B. Justison.

Everything in the little church has been donated by members or purchased through their untiring efforts to make it the gem of a place of worship that it is today. Mrs. Kate Willard Boyd gave the benches and prayer boards and many of the altar hangings. Dr. Cyrus F. Wicker, well-known writer, was the donor of the Della Robia, one of the most prized possessions of the church.

To many who think pioneering as being at least a term of 50 years, the little church in Coconut Grove may not seem so very old. In terms like that it isn't. But Miami is a comparatively new city, and 30 years is a pioneer number in this area. To the Rev. Soper and Mrs. Soper, whose efforts in the Sunday school have been unceasing, the 25 years of his rectorship have been full and replete with memories of Miami's best and oldest families. When these families and their descendants gather at 3 p. m. Wednesday, Father Soper will know how much his shepherding has meant to them.

Dr. Wicker has since died. E.A.

Note: Dr. Cyrus W. Wicker, now retired, living in La Jolla, Calif, advised the writer April 6, 1965 that the gift he made of a rare portion of a frieze made by Donnatella-entitled Choir of Angels. The gift was given in honor of his wife Grace Whiting Wicker. (One of their sons was lost in WW II-and he is memorialized with three others in gift of a Chalice.)

ST. STEPHENS CHURCH

Miami Metropolis
March 3, 1923

SEE BACK FOR SOURCE

ST. STEPHEN'S HAS MUCH ART IN THE CHAPEL

Episcopalian Parish Has Grown Rapidly and Has Had Only Two Rectors Since It Was Founded

Art is an important factor in St. Stephen's church. The little Episcopal chapel and rectory, semi obscured by walls and vines, has an exceptional atmosphere which is to be greatly enhanced by the placing of the series of religious paintings described elsewhere.

Already there is the beautiful "Christ and the Tribute Money," by Rubens. The story as told at one time in the Sun and New York Herald, was that a young Englishman, inheriting it from his family, was unable to dispose of it when it was black with age and varnish. Finally, in Ann Arbor, Mich., he gave it to a woman in exchange for a home and she in turn presented it to the Coconut Grove Episcopalian church.

Rev. Benjamin William Soper, the present rector, called to the church in the fall of 1915, may be now the dean of Dade county pastors, of any denomination. It is said that St. Stephen's has advanced numerically and financially faster than any Episcopalian church in south Florida. The congregations are reported to be more than enough to fill the church each Sunday during the winter.

Owns New Lot.

A large lot on the main highway at the corner of Ozone avenue has been bought and paid for so that a larger church and parish house may be built when the need arises. The church was made a parish five years ago.

The Sunday school, under the superintendency of Mrs. Marshall Price, has made a splendid growth in the past two years. Mrs. Reginald Owen is now the president of the guild. Admiral Albert Ross is the rector's warden and M. A. Mead is the people's warden.

When the mission was first opened in December, 1910, Dr. C. P. Jackson was given the appointment and he served as rector until 1915. The church was built in 1912, and was enlarged with the addition of the cloisters in 1920.

SACRED SCENES BEING PAINTED BY MR. HILDER

Artist Who Has Spent Seven Winters at Coconut Grove Is Busy With Great Series For St. Stephen's Church

Announcing the plan for a series of beautiful paintings to be placed between the windows in St. Stephen's Church, Rev. B. W. Soper said last Sunday that the work of Howard Hilder, the artist, who is depicting the life of Christ in this series, would bring the congregations intimately into the atmosphere of the life of Christ.

Atmosphere is the great thing in Mr. Hilder's work. There is mystery in many of the 13 scenes planned. The boyhood and early ministry of Christ are to be depicted with buoyancy and glad heartedness but there is to be element of horror in the crucifixion as painted by the artist now working in his studio at the rear of the public library.

The Artist's Story

Mr. Hilder first became famous in south Florida for his many beautiful studies of Royal Palm State Park where he worked for three seasons. He has spent seven winters in Coconut Grove, where he first came merely out of curiosity.

Bouguereau, Gabriel Ferrier, de la Gandara and Emil Jacque were his teachers for several years at l'Academie Julien in Paris, where he chiefly devoted himself to the study of the figure and to composition. He also spent some years in Haarlem, Holland, the city of Frans Hals, where he enjoyed the friendship and advice of the contemporary Dutch masters, Israels and Theophile de Bock, acquiring there his technique. He has had his studio for 15 years in Newport, R. I.

Half to Be Finished

This summer he is to go to California to paint Mt. Ranief by request. Prior to his departure he hopes to have half of the sacred paintings . . . . . Already he has about six of the scenes ready for enlargement to the six-by-four-foot size.

Careful study of the Syrian settings has made him attempt to eliminate the usual Italian tendencies in sacred paintings and to keep them as purely oriental as possible. The one which he anticipates finishing first is the memorial to John Bindley presented by the McMillin family.

This one shows the Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, represented as ineffably sad. He is in the dim, moonlit garden with tall cedars and olives casting their dark shadows, and with the sleeping apostles barely discernible through the gloom. Rather an eerie light seeps through the whole picture.

Dreamy and Poetic

The series is to start with the annunciation which is to be a dreamy poetic night scene, states Mr. Hilder, who goes on to describe the virgin Mary in meditation on the roof of an oriental house, and an angel, with wings spread, whispering to her.

Angels, as Mr. Hilder portrays them, are not "solid women with feathers but rather spirituelle suggestions not clearly defined." Light from the star to the east is used in the second picture to light the magi on their camels. For the nativity, instead of the conventional stable interior, this artist has most effectively created the atmosphere of the occasion by showing the outside of a lowly oriental shelter, with a glimpse of the interior in which the dim form of Mary is depicted in the manger with the child from whom a glow of light emanates. In the mysterious twilight outside the shepherd's are seen approaching.

One Prophetic Touch

A dim, shadowy night is the setting for the flight into Egypt. Outlined in the dullness is the figure of Joseph trudging along, leading the donkey upon which Mary rides with the child in her arms. The prophetic element is introduced here by having an angel shown in filmy light enveloping the three protectingly, but with the shadow cast by the angel suggesting the form of the cross.

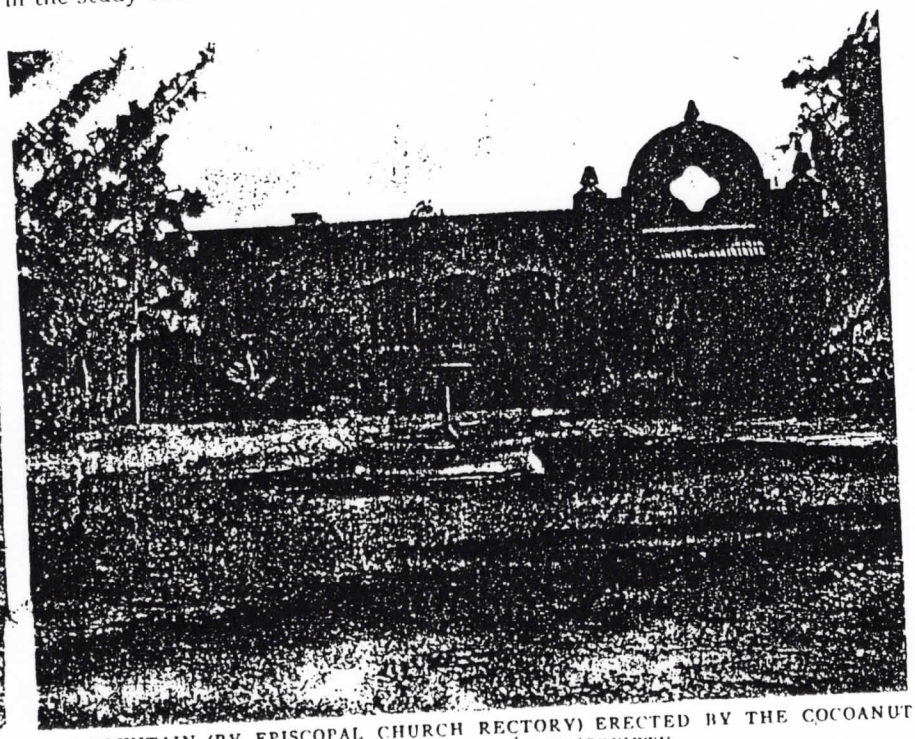
The calling of Peter, which Mr. Hilder has just started, has the gladness of dawn and the sea and the vigorous Christ. Such are the paintings which are being made in Coconut Grove where the understanding and appreciation of art at its best is known to many of the residents who have enjoyed world-wide travel.

Extensive travels by Charles Dean and his brother resulted in the planting of many trees on the Cummings place in the early days, so that probably the only banyan tree in the section stood on that estate early in the 1900's.

Inc Bus Fore 1918

work of replanting the fruit trees of France, 60,000 or more having been ruthlessly cut down by the retreating enemy.—(Miss) HENRIETTA O. JONES, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Cocoanut Grove (Fla.) Audubon Society.—This year three active departments have been added: Legislative, Educational, and Study. The first is busy with important reforms; the second is doing fine work in Sunday and public schools; while the chairman of the third has created an unusual interest in the study of home-birds.



BIRD-FOUNTAIN (BY EPISCOPAL CHURCH RECTORY) ERECTED BY THE COCOANUT GROVE (FLORIDA) AUDUBON SOCIETY

We have secured a county game-warden and have presented two bird-fountains, one to the Episcopal Church and one to the Christian Science Temple. Both have been appreciated by the birds and are very attractive. Our bird poster at a poster exhibit (of "Help Win the War") held by the Dade County Federation of Women's Clubs was the center of attraction. It showed some of the birds that eat the boll-weevil. We have interested two of the county farming organizations to the extent of gaining their promise of protectors for county birds. Our membership continues to increase; it now numbers 120. We own a Liberty Bond.—MRS. KIRK MUNROE,

FROM MINUTES of Coconut GROVE AUDUBON SOCIETY
1917-1919
3439 Main Highway